

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-21 are pending in the instant application. Of these, claims 17-21 are withdrawn from prosecution, and claims 15-16 stand rejected. Applicants have amended claim 15. In view of the amendment and arguments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-16.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Yasuda (Japanese Patent No. 2-56253) in view of USPTO Translation of Yasuda. The Examiner considers the claims to read on Yasuda. Further, the Examiner states that if a difference exists between the claims and Yasuda, it would reside in optimizing the elements of Yasuda. The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to optimize the elements of Yasuda to enhance separation. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants first submit that the claims are not anticipated by Yasuda. Applicants assert that Yasuda describe polymeric cation particles, with the cation included in the repeating unit (page 16, first full paragraph). Thus, Yasuda has positive charges appear repeatedly on the polymers. In addition, Applicants submit that Yasuda's polymeric cation particles are made by polymerizing monomers, the product of which are necessarily hydrophobic (see paragraph bridging page 15 and 16; also see page 49, last

paragraph). The resulting polymeric cation particles are highly selective anion exchangers for small molecules, especially for iodine (page 49, lines 7-9), with an improved ion exchange rate which cannot be seen using hydrophilic cation particles (page 49, last paragraph).

The current application, on the other hand, claims an anion-exchanger that consists essentially of a hydrophilic base matrix, and anion-exchange ligands attached thereto. It is apparent that the ligands are attached differently than that of Yasuda. It is also apparent that the currently claimed anion-exchanger consists of a hydrophilic base matrix, with no hydrophobic polymer to be found. The currently claimed anion-exchanger also offers unique advantages for purification of substances from high conductivity liquids, such as fermentation broths - it shows remarkable capacities in high salt contents. Applicants submit that as such, claims 15 and 16 are not anticipated by Yasuda.

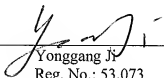
The only question remaining is whether or not the claimed inventions are obvious in view of Yasuda. Applicants submit that it is not. The only reason given by the Examiner for the obviousness rejection is that "it would have been obvious to optimize the elements of Yasuda" to "enhance separation". Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants submit that for the reasons stated above in the response to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) anticipation rejection, there exists fundamental differences between the currently

claimed invention and the Yasuda reference. Therefore, Applicants contend that optimizing Yasuda would not lead to the currently claimed invention. Applicants submit that rejections of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Yasuda should be withdrawn as well.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner's rejections cannot be sustained and should be withdrawn. Applicants believe that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 15-16.

Respectfully submitted,

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